

From: Robert Cooper [<mailto:Robert.Cooper@dcf.ks.gov>]
Sent: Monday, June 09, 2014 11:30 AM
To: Megan Essary
Subject: Official Announcement from KCDHH

KCDHH announces the appointment of new Executive Director

TOPEKA, KS – The Kansas Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (KCDHH) is pleased to announce the appointment of Robert J. Cooper as its new Executive Director. Mr. Cooper has begun his duties as of May 19, 2014.

As KCDHH's new Executive Director, Mr. Cooper will oversee all KCDHH activities, including staff supervision, oversight of budget, program of regulation and certification of interpreters in Kansas and border communities, and collaboration with other DCF programs and initiatives. In his role, he will also serve as advisory member on several committees and advisory councils within the State of Kansas.

Mr. Cooper is bringing in a 20-year plus experience in advocacy for the people with disabilities, particularly the deaf and hard of hearing people. Most recently, Mr. Cooper has worked for sComm in Raytown, MO, a manufacturer of UbiDuo – a text-based communication device for the deaf and hard of hearing. Prior to sComm, he worked for Communication Services for the Deaf (CSD) in Sioux Falls, SD moving through several positions in 4 years, starting as State Director for its CSD of Ohio office and ending as Center Manager for Project Endeavor Contact Center, a program involved with U.S. Department of Commerce's Broadband Technology for Opportunities (BTOP) initiative. Previously, Mr. Cooper served as Executive Director for two other Deaf/Hard of Hearing-related nonprofit organizations in Minnesota and Ohio. Other work experience included serving as a Retail Banker and also a brief time at Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

Mr. Cooper is a graduate of Kansas School for the Deaf in Olathe and has a Bachelor's degree in Government from Gallaudet University in Washington, DC.

KCDHH is a state agency authorized to develop and implement a program of information and referral, advocacy, public education and direct services. Based in Topeka, KCDHH works with other organizations throughout Kansas to assure coordination and availability of services for people who are deaf and hard of hearing. Pursuant to K.S.A. 75-5391, KCDHH was established within the Kansas Department of Children and Families (DCF). Within the statute, the Governor appoints a 17-member Board of Directors. KCDHH is a part of Rehabilitation Services, a division within DCF. For more information, please contact KCDHH at (785) 368-8034 voice, (785) 246-5077 videophone, or visit www.dcf.ks.gov/services/RS/Pages/KCDHH.aspx.

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